



November 2, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Duke  
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

We are writing to alert you of our concerns regarding the pending termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations for Haiti, Honduras and El Salvador, and request the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to extend TPS for these countries as we work toward a permanent resolution of the issue.

We reference and endorse the recent letter to DHS from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which notes the high U.S. labor force participation of over 80% for TPS authorized workers from these countries. Thousands of these individuals work in the poultry processing industry, according to a recent informal survey of our members.

Our member company plants, located primarily in rural areas in the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions, have suffered an increasingly severe workforce shortage in recent years. The challenge of worker availability is even more acute for plants operating in counties with extremely low unemployment rates. As a consequence, many poultry operations are being forced to shrink shifts, cut production and short orders, which will ultimately adversely impact the American consumer.

Terminating TPS designations for a critical segment of our workforce will magnify these trends and pose an even greater operational challenge to U.S. poultry production in the future.

We therefore urge DHS to extend TPS designations for the near term to avoid significant disruption to our members, our workforce and our consumers. We would look forward to working with you in the meantime to ensure a long-term solution on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Starkey".

John E. Starkey, P.E.  
President  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

Mike Brown  
President  
National Chicken Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Brandenberger".

Joel Brandenberger  
President  
National Turkey Federation

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BY EXEC SEC

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**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

February 12, 2018

Mr. John E. Starkey, P.E.  
President  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association  
1530 Cooledge Road  
Tucker, Georgia 30084

Dear Mr. Starkey:

Thank you for your November 2, 2017 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations for Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate or redesignate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

At least 60 days before the current expiration date for a TPS designation, the Secretary must review conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determine whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation are no longer met with respect to a country, the Secretary is required to terminate the designation. *See* INA § 244(b)(1),(3).

After considering information from several U.S. Government sources, on November 20, 2017, former Acting Secretary Duke announced the termination of Haiti's TPS designation after determining that the statutory conditions for its designation no longer continued to be met. To allow for an orderly transition, the former Acting Secretary delayed the effective date by 18 months. Accordingly, Haiti's TPS designation will terminate on July 22, 2019. The 18-month period will provide time for individuals with TPS to arrange for their departure or to seek an alternative lawful immigration status in the United States. Additional information on the termination of Haiti TPS can be found on the USCIS website and in a notice that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18, 2018.

Secretary Nielsen decided to terminate the TPS designation for El Salvador after considering information from several U.S. Government sources, with a delay of 18 months to allow for an orderly transition before the designation terminates on September 9, 2019. DHS is

Mr. John Starkey

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committed to an orderly transition that will allow time for El Salvador to prepare for the return and reintegration of its citizens. USCIS will work with the State Department and the government of El Salvador to help inform relevant stakeholders in-country and in the United States to ensure an orderly return and reintegration of El Salvador's citizens. Additional details on the Secretary's decision and the process for current El Salvador TPS beneficiaries to renew their work authorization documentation until TPS terminates on September 9, 2019, can be found in the notice that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18, 2018.

In regards to Honduras, former Acting Secretary Duke did not make a determination by the 60-day deadline for Honduras (November 6, 2017), resulting in an automatic six-month extension of the designation. Details regarding this extension and the process for Honduran TPS beneficiaries to re-register can be found on the USCIS website and in the *Federal Register* notice published on December 15, 2017.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in these important issues. The co-signers of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Francis Cissna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

L. Francis Cissna  
Director